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Published by
CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Volume 39

JULY 25, 1961

No. 48

A New Genus and Species of Frog (Leptodactylidae) from Colombia

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Among the unidentified frogs from Colombia sent to us by Chicago Natural History Museum is a single specimen of a broad-headed leptodactylid that seems to be undescribed. Not only are we unable to allocate it specifically but it does not seem to belong with any of the described genera. The cartilaginous sternum, pointed terminal phalanges, and unwebbed toes seem to align it with that section of the family that contains *Eusophus*, *Zachaeus*, and *Craspedoglossa*, although in general appearance it has the aspect of something allied to *Ceratophrys* or *Lepidobatrachus*.

Amblyphrynus, new genus

Type species.—*Amblyphrynus ingeri*, new species.

Diagnosis.—A leptodactylid with cartilaginous sternum; terminal phalanges pointed, not T-shaped; digits not expanded; distinct tympanum; horizontal pupil; no paired odontoids on mandibular symphysis; tongue free behind; toes unwebbed; cranial derm free from head; skull strongly exostosed; vomerine teeth well behind choanae.

Amblyphrynus ingeri, new species

Type.—Chicago Natural History Museum no. 81915, adult female, collected 8 km. south of Gachala, San Isidro, Cundinamarca, Colombia, at an altitude of 2350 meters.

Diagnosis.—As for the genus.

Description of type.—Vomerine teeth in two short, slightly oblique series, lying close together well behind the posterior borders of the

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 61-14688

small, rounded choanae; maxillary and premaxillary teeth present; tuberculum prelinguale present but not particularly prominent and not odontoid-like; tongue two-thirds as wide as mouth-opening, rounded, its sides and posterior border free. Head broad and flattened. Snout prominent, rounded when viewed from above, sloping in profile, the upper jaw extending but little beyond the lower; nostrils dorso-lateral, slightly projecting, their distance from the end of the snout about equal to that from the eye, separated from each other by an interval about equal to their distance from the eye. Canthus rostralis low and poorly defined; loreal region slightly concave and very oblique, the upper lip flaring out strongly below it. Eye moderate, not prominent, its diameter equal to its distance from the nostril; pupil horizontal; interorbital distance half again as great as the upper eyelid, which is slightly less than the distance between the nostrils. Tympanum very distinct, oblong, its greatest diameter perpendicular and about three-fifths the diameter of the eye, separated from the eye by a distance greater than its own greatest diameter. The tympanum lies just below the distal end of a post-orbital bony ridge. Fingers slightly webbed at base, the fourth slightly shorter than the second, just reaching to the base of the penultimate phalanx of the third; a slightly projecting rudiment of a pollex; no ulnar ridge; (broken right radio-ulna shows in X-ray); toes free of web, the third a phalanx longer than the fifth; a distinct oval inner and a smaller but distinct rounded outer metatarsal tubercle; no tarsal ridge; no dermal appendage on the heel. Body short, in post-axillary region much narrower than the greatest width of the head; when hind leg is adpressed, the heel reaches to the eye; when limbs are laid along the side, the knee and elbow slightly overlap; when hind legs are bent at right angles to the body, the heels fail to meet by several millimeters. No patagium or axillary folds from the back of the upper arm to the side of the body. Skin of upper parts dry and slightly granular. Top of head with parallel longitudinal bony ridges; a prominent bony postorbital ridge on each side. Skin along the side below the sacral hump somewhat wrinkled. A rather narrow glandular ridge passing down from the tip of the postorbital ridge and behind the tympanum; skin of throat and chest smooth but with scattered tiny wart-like tubercles; that of belly and lower surface of thigh uniformly and rather coarsely granular; no traces of a skin-fold across chest; no inguinal gland; adult female, no vocal sac apparent. Skin of head not co-ossified with skull, roof of skull heavily exostosed.

Measurements.—Head and body 51.5 mm.; head length 21.4 mm.; head width 28.4 mm.; femur 22.7 mm.; tibia 21.3 mm.; heel-to-toe 34.0 mm.; hand 18.2 mm.

Color (in alcohol).—Uniform pale brown, slightly darker along the side between axilla and groin.

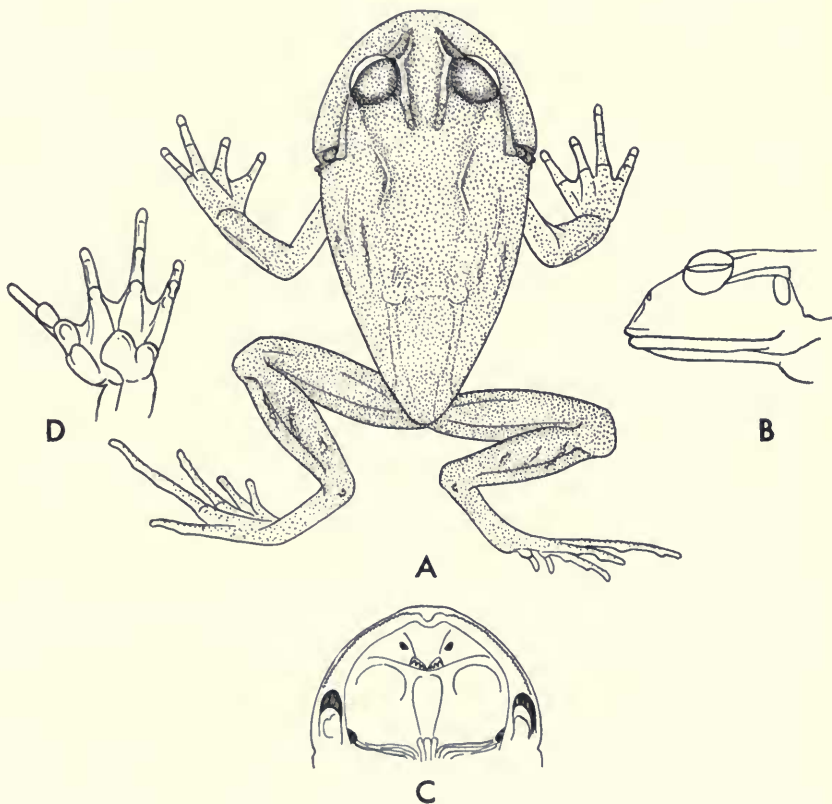


FIG. 103.—Type of *Amblyphrynus ingeri*, CNHM 81915: A, dorsal view; B, side of head; C, inside of mouth; D, hand Actual length 51.5 mm.

Discussion.—We are not at all sure of the exact relationships of *Amblyphrynus*. The very broad head gives it an aspect similar to *Ceratophrys* or *Lepidobatrachus* but we are not at all convinced that the broad-headed leptodactylids form a natural group. At any rate *Amblyphrynus* differs from *Ceratophrys* in lacking toe webs and supraciliary processes, in having the cranial derm free of the head, and in having the vomerine teeth well behind the choanae. From

Lepidobatrachus it differs in having the toes free of webs, in lacking paired odontoids at the mandibular symphysis, in having the tongue free behind, and in having the cranial derm free of the head.

If, on the other hand, toe webbing is indicative of relationship in the leptodactylids, then on the basis of free toes and having the terminal phalanx of the digits pointed and stylus-like rather than T-shaped, *Amblyphrynus* belongs with the group that includes *Eusophus*, *Zachaenus*, and perhaps *Craspedoglossa*, although *Craspedoglossa* is somewhat intermediate and has the tip of the terminal phalanx with a round knob rather than being either truly pointed or T-shaped. From *Eusophus*, *Amblyphrynus* differs in having the vomerine teeth well behind the choanae, in its very broad head, and in having the roof of the cranium heavily exostosed. From *Craspedoglossa* it differs in its much broader head, in having the top of the skull heavily exostosed, in having a distinct tympanum, in having the tongue more extensively free behind and in the form of the terminal phalanges. From *Zachaenus* it differs in having the roof of the cranium heavily exostosed, in having the head much broader and flatter, and in lacking axillary wings (patagium).

Finally, its lack of toe webs and the presence of a distinct tympanum readily distinguish it from both *Odontophrynus* and *Cycloramphus*, which are relatively narrow-headed forms with pointed terminal phalanges.

Perhaps all in all it has more characters that seem to be fundamental in common with *Zachaenus* than with any of the other genera. Whether or not *Zachaenus* is in fact its closest relative must await a more detailed study of the genera of leptodactylids than has yet been made.

Acknowledgments.—We are indebted to Dr. Robert F. Inger for the privilege of describing the novelty; to Dr. Alan Leviton of the California Academy of Sciences and Dr. Osvaldo A. Reig of the Instituto Miguel-Lillo, Tucumán, Argentina, for making comparative material available to us; to Mr. Wayne King of the Department of Biology of the University of Florida for making X-ray photographs; and to Miss Esther Coogle of the University of Florida for drawings of the type. The junior author's work on South American frogs is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation (G-13325). Our heartiest thanks to all of these.